

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JAPAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 15144

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJ: "POLICY" OF SOCIETY TO THINK ABOUT A NEW JAPAN

REF: TOKYO 9280

SUMMARY. SOCIETY TO THINK ABOUT A NEW JAPAN, CENTER-LEFT GROUPING OF ANTI-COMMUNIST MEMBERS OF SOCIALIST, DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST AND CLEAN GOVERNMENT OPPOSITION PARTIES INAUGURATED EARLIER THIS YEAR, CONTINUED ITS IMAGE BUILDING EFFORT OCTOBER 4 WITH ANNOUNCEMENT OF POLICY "VISION." INCLUDING NEED FOR NEW MASS POLITICAL PARTY. DESPITE ANNOUNCEMENT, HOWEVER, GROUP AGAIN DEMONSTRATED THAT IT IS BETTER AT STIMULATING DISCUSSION AND PUBLICITY THAN ARTICULATING PRACTICAL STRATEGY FOR NEW MODERATE GROUPING WHICH IN TIME MIGHT SERVE AS NUCLEUS FOR REALIGNMENT OF MODERATE-LEFT FORCES. END SUMMARY.

1. AT RECEPTION OCTOBER 4, ORGANIZERS OF SOCIETY TO THINK ABOUT A
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NEW JAPAN, CENTER-LEFT DISCUSSION GROUP INAUGURATED EARLIER THIS

YEAR BY ANTI-COMMUNIST MEMBERS OF THREE OPPOSITION PARTIES AND ALLIED INTELLECTUALS, SIGNIFIED INTENTION TO PUSH MOVEMENT INTO MORE VISIBLE ROLE BY ANNOUNCING POLICY "VISION" AND NECESSITY FOR FORMATION OF NEW MODERATE POLITICAL PARTY. EMERGENT PROGRAM, ENTITLED "FOR THE FUTURE OF JAPAN," WAS PRESENTED JOINTLY BY SABURO EDA, MODERATE VICE CHAIRMAN OF JAPAN SOCIALIST PARTY (JSP); JUNYA YANO, SECGEN OF CLEAN GOVERNMENT PARTY (CGP); AND RYOSAKU SASAKI, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTY (DSP).

2. GROUP'S VAGUE POLICY STATEMENT CALLS FOR CREATION OF "CITIZENS' SOCIALISM" BASED ON INVIGORATED SENSE OF CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY AND INVOLVEMENT. WHILE DECLARING FREE-ENTERPRISE SYSTEM BASED ON MARKET MECHANISM "BEST METHOD," "VISION" SUGGESTS "HUMANIZING" MARKET ECONOMY BY CHECKING EXCESSES AND ENCOURAGING WORKER PARTICIPATION IN CORPORATE DECISION-MAKING. ATTACKING CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION AS ELITIST AND BUREAUCRATIC, PRONOUNCEMENT ALSO MENTIONS NEED TO STIMULATE CITIZEN INTEREST AND PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT POLICY-MAKING.

3. ON DEFENSE POLICY, STATEMENT SAYS US-JAPAN SECURITY TREATY SHOULD BE CONTINUED IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE, BECAUSE ABROGATION NOW WOULD INCREASE INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS. HOWEVER, DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS GRADUALLY TO PHASE OUT MILITARY PACT AND REPLACE IT WITH FRIENDSHIP AGREEMENT ARE RECOMMENDED. STATEMENT FURTHER DECLARES THAT SELF DEFENSE FORCE SHOULD BE MAINTAINED, BUT WITH GREATER CIVILIAN AND DIET REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES.

4. FOR REALIZATION OF NEW PARTY STRUCTURE, STATEMENT CALLS FOR: ORGANIZATION BASED ON CITIZENS AND NOT CLASSES; FINANCIAL SUPPORT THROUGH INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS INSTEAD OF LABOR OR BUSINESS; AND MOVEMENT TIED TO POPULAR OPINION RATHER THAN BUREAUCRATIC ELITE.

5. COMMENT. GIVEN POSSIBILITY LDP UPPER HOUSE MAJORITY MIGHT DECLINE FURTHER AT NEXT YEAR'S ELECTION AND PRESENT WEAKNESS OF EACH OF OPPOSITION PARTIES, ANY SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF NEW MODERATE LEFT-CENTER ALTERNATIVE EXCITES ATTENTION AND DISCUSSION. PRONOUNCEMENTS BY SOCIETY TO THINK ABOUT A NEW JAPAN PRODUCED DESIRED FAVORABLE SPECULATION BY EDITORIAL WRITERS OF MAJOR DAILIES. NEVERTHELESS, NEW "VISION" IS ONLY ONE MORE STEP IN GROUP'S OBJECTIVE OF ATTRACTING ATTENTION AND CONSTRUCTING FUTURE OPITIONS; IT DOES NOT POR-

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TEND SUDDEN CHANGE IN PRESENT POLITICAL ALIGNMENTS. MOTIVATION OF DSP AND CGP APPEARS TO BE SEARCH FOR ROLE IN NEW ALIGNMENTS WHICH MIGHT PRESERVE OR EXTEND, RESPECTIVELY, CURRENT LEVEL OF ELECTORAL SUPPORT. PARTICIPATION OF EDA COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR HIM, AS MANY SOCIALISTS ALREADY CRITICIZE HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH GROUP. WHETHER GROUP WILL PROSPER OR EVEN CONTINUE DEPENDS UPON ITS ABILITY TO ATTRACT HERETOFORE LACKING SUPPORT OF ORGANIZED LABOR. AT PRESENT, SOCIETY REMAINS VEHICLE FOR AIRING IDEAS OF NON-COMMUNIST LEFT-

CENTER INTELLECTUALS AND SOME OPPOSITION LEADERS, AROUND WHICH
MODERATE-LEFT FORCES COULD CONCEIVABLY COALESCE IF CONDITIONS WERE
TO BECOME FAVORABLE IN FUTURE. INCLUSION OF WORKER-PARTICIPATION
CONCEPT IN "VISION" COULD, IN TIME, OFFER OPENING FOR FUTURE LABOR
SUPPORT.

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